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BACKGROUND PAPER

Coordination of Civilian and Military RD Plans

Current Status

We are still a long way from the optimum on RD planning. In 1967 the RD Ministry and the ARVN did separate planning for RD, and the US side -- prior to the reorganization in November -- did not do significantly better. There is little civil input to the 1967 MACV/JGS combined campaign plan, AB142.

To correct these deficiencies, we have pushed the GVN to put out directives requiring formal province security plans assigning specific military tasks in support of RD. General Thang has finally put on his other JGS hat and assigned his deputy to an office in the JGS which will participate in military RD planning. Six combined inspection teams, with members from the JGS, MORD, Agriculture, Education, Public Works, Interior, and MACV and OCO, have already started on field evaluations of RD progress.

Major Problems

The RD Ministry planning may be too cautious this year -- in contrast to previous years when it was wildly optimistic. There is a very real possibility that the GVN will not be able to follow-up on military success, because of inadequate numbers of trained cadres or other effective Government presence. II Corps, where General Larsen's troops, along with the Koreans, have created unexpected opportunities, is one area where, for example, the province simply did not have cadre available to follow the success of Operation Irving. There the GVN, with US encouragement, began an experimental program using civilian officials and RF and PF units in an ad

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hoc combined civil-military team. This kind of field expedient must be tried more frequently as the RD program gathers momentum, to augment the regular GVN plans.

Action to be taken

We must continue to emphasize the need for participation in RD planning by all elements concerned, US and GVN, military and civilian, right from the start of the planning effort. This principle should apply to military operations likely to have major effects on RD efforts, to revisions of current RD plans, and to the RD plans for 1968.

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